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# County of San Diego

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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### Medical Director's Update for Base Station Physicians Committee May, 2006

#### San Diego County EMS:

**Dr. Hoyt:** Dr. David Hoyt is leaving San Diego after many years at UC San Diego. Most recently as chief of the trauma service, he has been a tireless advocate for trauma care, and a world renowned researcher. Dr. Hoyt is focused on improving the care of the trauma patient. Join us in wishing him well, and thanking him for his years of service to those in the EMS system.

**Alvarado Hospital:** The Office of the Inspector General started action to withdraw Medicare patients from Alvarado after the investigation into "inducements" at the hospital. If successful, the action would likely result in the hospital's closure. Alvarado will likely appeal the notice and, usually, a settlement is reached in these cases to allow the hospital to continue in the Medicare program. If for some reason a settlement is not reached, there was at least one expression of interest in the newspaper in purchasing the facility. Nevertheless, EMS is working on a contingency plan if the hospital were to close.

**Off-load Study:** Letters will go out to the hospitals this week to seek cooperation in the off-load study conducted by EMOC and EMS. The study is scheduled to begin June 5 running for two weeks to end on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The purpose will be examine the length of time it takes for patients to be moved from ambulance personnel to the care of the hospital on a hospital bed, and determine how often the off-load time is substantial and might delay an EMS unit from getting back in service.

**Capacity Study:** The hospital capacity study is underway, looking at the number of admitted patients held in the ED at 8 am and 8 pm. Data entry to this point has been somewhat hit or miss with only 23% of the possible twice a day entries completed. EMS will work on improving the response and clarifying any questions. Hospitals should be entering into QCS each day at 8 am and 8 pm the number of admitted patients being held in the ED for ICU, telemetry and floor beds. Entries must be two digits each, e.g. 03/02/01. Please call EMS if you have questions.

**STEMI Update:** STEMI receiving center facility standards were approved at the last Cardiology Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. Applications should go out to the hospitals in the near future. Designation policies are delayed by legal review, but should go to EMCC in June. We are still hopeful to have applications returned to us in June and the system up and running in July. The Union Tribune article focused attention on the benefits expected from the system. The article used an “ideal” volume instead of the minimum case volume quantities recommended by the American College of Cardiology, so left an inaccurate view of the standards. System participants will be clearer after we receive the applications.

**Stroke Update:** The Acute Care/Emergency questionnaire is out at the hospitals and the steering committee will meet again in June.

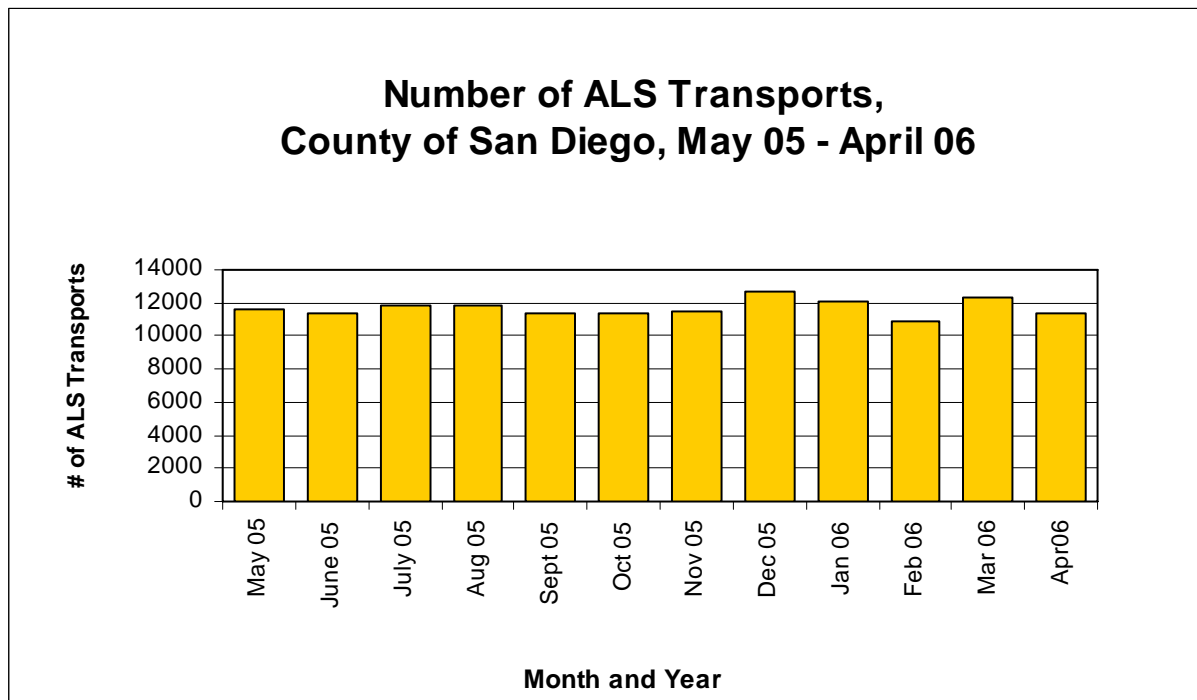
**ROC:** Hypertonic saline training has started, according to the investigators. We are finishing some of the final agreements.

**In-service:** The education package will go out to trainers this week.

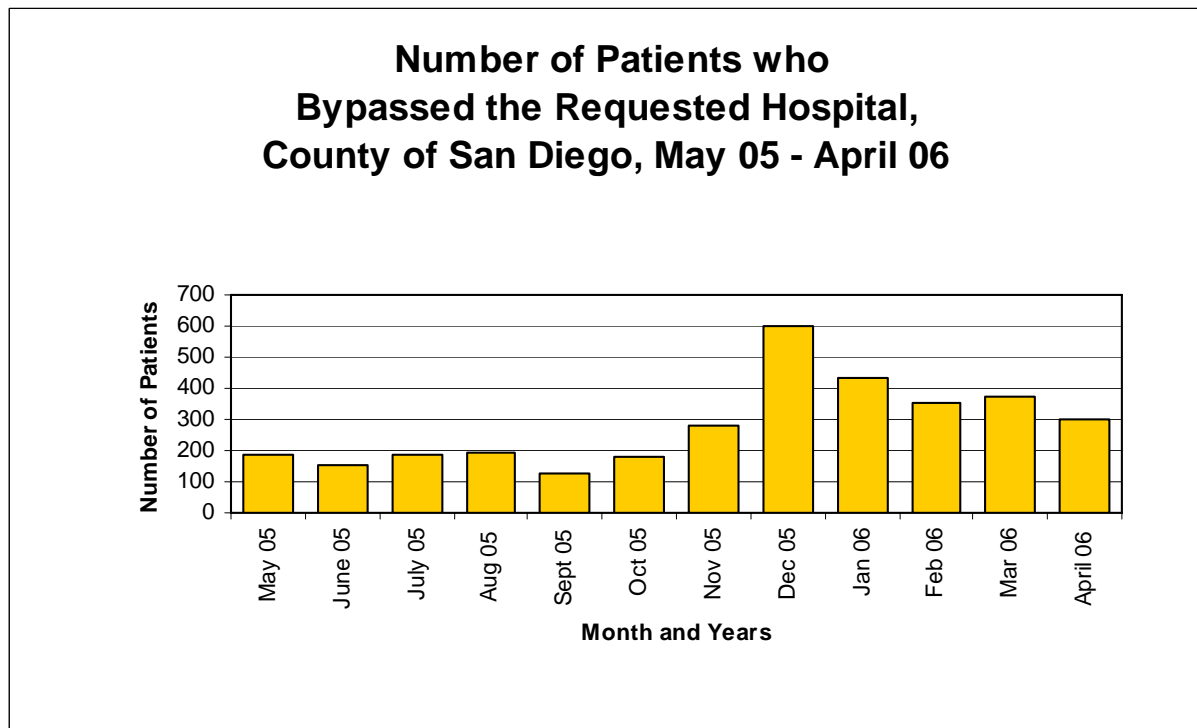
### **EMOC**

New guidelines for placing individuals on 5150 holds were discussed at the May 12, 2006 meeting. Information for field providers will be out soon.

Below are the patient destination data in graphic form:

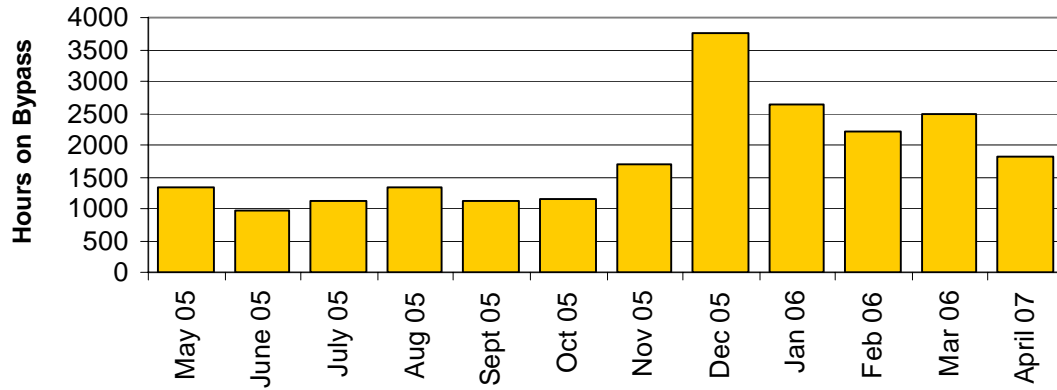


Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, May 2005 – Apr 2006 Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other



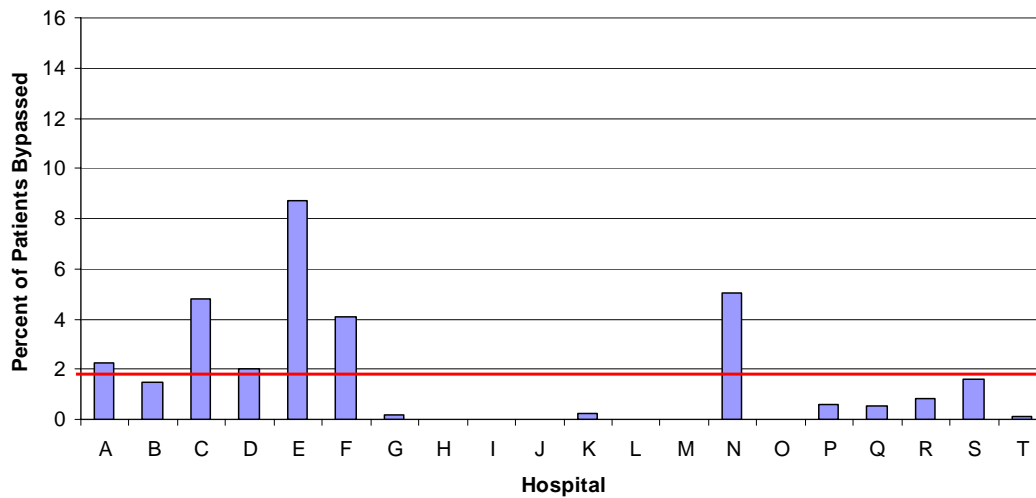
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, May 2005 – Apr 2006 Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other

### Total Hours on Emergency Department Bypass County of San Diego, May 05 - April 06



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, May 2005 –Apr 2006

### Percent of Patients Bypassed per Hospital, April 2006



Note: The red line represents the mean value of percent of patients bypassed per hospital, April 2006

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Apr 2006 Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other